
Counting the Catalogs

by Paul Mistretta (LM111)

One of the first things I did when I took over the Bulletin this time was look at my collection – of catalogs. I feel that I can neither write nor edit efficiently without current information on the subject and thus current catalogs are essential.

The first product of this work was the publication of the lists of citations of the current catalogs (PB 56: 85-87, 96-97; & 57:14-15). The first list was mine, the next two were corrections and additions made by members with more current information than mine.

I had planned to begin (in fact I announced in January that I would begin) the list I have put together of world perfins counts based on these catalogs, rather than the census we periodically hold. But then, Bob Schwertdt submitted his ‘top 25’ list from the most recent Club census and it was too good a lead to pass up. So, in February I published that list. And, this month he has sent a list from Robert Dedecker that I will include as part of this introduction to my count the catalog listing. Robert’s list is a set of estimates for totals in the various country catalogs (unspecified). It is as follows:

Great Britain	24,000
Germany	22,000
France	3,000
Austria	2,500
Denmark	1,050
Belgium	1,000
Czechoslovakia	900
India	900
Italy	900
Netherlands	860
Romania	800
Switzerland	730
Hungary	700
Australia	600
Victoria	600

And Mr. Dedecker gives an estimate of about 61,000 different dies for a “top” collection.

So, with these two different summaries as a perfect lead-in, I will begin the counting of the catalogs.

I began my listing with the last world census listing. However, I rapidly abandoned the empire unit

format in favor of a purely alphabetic listing. I also had to resolve a few naming problems (different people using different names for apparently the same geographic unit [one good example is Levant – and its various other names]). Where names were an issue the “catalog” column in the listing will contain a “see...” “-note and no counts will be given for that name.

I have addressed a major concern expressed by several collectors with respect to the listing of current catalogs. Each country/territory name is followed by the author and date of the catalog which has been counted. Refer back to the Bulletins referenced above in this article for a full citation for each.

The remaining columns are POST (a count of patterns in Postage stamps), REV (a count of patterns in revenue stamps), SPEC (specimen punches reported for that country/territory), OTH (count of Other issues – often separate count of officials, postal stationery items, fraudulent punches, or cinderellas.), and Comments (just that – though used somewhat inconsistently.. sorry). Inconsistencies in cataloging do exist. Several catalogs do not distinguish POST from REV, others don’t distinguish OTH items. Counts reflect what I could figure out from the catalogs – I don’t speculate beyond except in a couple of comments.

The counts are mine alone. If I was tired or crosseyed at the time I counted – they may be off by a few. I’m easily distracted when I am doing something that could be run on autopilot like counting... Also, some of the subunits in country catalogs are tough to keep straight. South African units, Portugese colonies, and several other units were a challenge simply due to their inherent complexity. The catalogs are great – my counting may not be as good! But here goes.

My plan is to publish 2-4 pages each month until I run out of pages. The listing is 15 pages long using 9 point type (I usually use 11 point). So look for the answer as to how many patterns are cataloged sometime just after next year’s dues are due.

Country or Territory	Current (2002) Catalog Counts						Comments
	CATALOG	POST	REV	SPEC	OTH	TOT	
Aden	Schwerdt Asia 1996			3		3	
A.E.F. (Fr.)	Dedecker & 1990	2				2	
A.O.F. (Fr.)	Dedecker & 1990	1				1	
Akassa (GB used abroad)	PB 249(Jun):8. 1972	1				1	
Albania	Schwerdt Europe 1994	2	1			3	
Algeria (Fr.)	Schwerdt Africa 1995	58	1			59	
Allenstein	Schwerdt Europe 1994	1				1	
Alsace & Lorraine (1916)	Schwerdt Europe 1994	3	1			4	
Alsace & Lorraine (1924-1938)	Dedecker & 1990				4	4	oth = 'timbres sociaux'
Alsace (German Occ. - 1940)	Schwerdt Europe 1994	11				11	
Angola (Port.)	Schwerdt Africa 1995	4				4	
Antigua	Schwerdt Amer 1992			4		4	
Argentina	Schwerdt Amer 1992	234	3	1	4	242	oth = officials
Ascension	Schwerdt Africa 1995			3		3	
Australia	Grant & 1992	718			32	750	See note at bottom
Austria	Nussbickel 1991	2563	42		12	2617	
Austria (on German stamps)	Nussbickel 1991	22				22	
Austria - Allied Occupation Issue 1945/46	see... AMG (Austria)					0	
Azores (Port.)	Schwerdt Africa 1995	12				12	
Baden (1947-1949; French Occupation)	Schwerdt Europe 1994	4				4	
Bahamas	Schwerdt Amer 1992	2		4		6	
Barbados	Schwerdt Amer 1992	1		3	1	5	oth = officials
Basoutoland	Schwerdt Africa 1995			3		3	
Bavaria	Needham 1990	507			6	513	oth = officials
Bavarian - 'Deut. Reich'	Needham 1990	34				34	
Bechuanaland (GB)	Schwerdt Africa 1995			1		1	
Bechuanaland Protectorate	Schwerdt Africa 1995			4	2	6	oth = Fraudulent
Belgium	Hammink & van der Hoorn 1997a	1472			8	1480	oth = punches
Belgium (Germ. Occ.)	Hammink & van der Hoorn 1997a	111			10	121	oth = Fraudulent
Bengal (India)	Werner 1990		1			1	
Bermuda	Schwerdt Amer 1992			4		4	

Country or Territory	Current (2002) Catalog Counts						Comments
	CATALOG	POST	REV	SPEC	OTH	TOT	
Bolivia	Schwerdt PB 367:45. 1984		1			1	Not listed in Bob's 1992 Americas catalog
Bombay (India)	Werner 1990		7			7	
Bosnia & Herzegovina (1918-1920; Jugos. forerunner)	Schwerdt Europe 1994	2				2	
Bosnia & Herzegovina (to 1917)	Schwerdt Europe 1994	28				28	
Bosnia/Herzegovina (Austria)	Nussbickel 1991	24				24	
Brazil	Schwerdt Amer 1992	13	15			28	
British Guiana	Schwerdt Amer 1992	1		5		6	
British Honduras	Schwerdt Amer 1992		2	3	2	7	
British Military Administration	Giffen 1989	3		1		4	SPEC => Schwerdt Asia 1996
Brunei	Schwerdt Asia 1996			2		2	
Bulgaria	Schwerdt Europe 1994	15	1			16	
Burma	Werner 1990	8				8	
Bushire	Schwerdt Asia 1996				1	1	
Cameroun, Federal Republic	Schwerdt Africa 1995	1				1	
Canada	Johnson 1985	339	156		14	509	oth = punches; rev = single pat count not multiple by agency; officials counted in 'post'
Canal Zone	Schwerdt Amer 1992	8			1	9	oth = officials
Canary Iss.	Schwerdt Africa 1995	1				1	
Canton (Fr.)	Schwerdt Asia 1996	6				6	
Cape of Good Hope	Schwerdt Africa 1995	66	12		3	81	oth = officials
Cayman Iss.	Schwerdt Amer 1992		1	4		5	
Ceylon	Ellis 1988	85	20	3	4	112	SPEC => Schwerdt Asia 1996
Chamba (India)	Werner 1990	2				2	
Chile	Schwerdt Amer 1992	22	96	2	4	124	oth = officials
China	Schwerdt Asia 1996	41	1		3	45	
China, People's Republic	Schwerdt Asia 1996	1				1	
China - Taiwan	Schwerdt Asia 1996		2			2	
Christmas Is	Schwerdt Asia 1996				1	1	oth = personal
Cochin (India)	Werner 1990, 98	1				1	
Cocos (Keeling) Iss	Schwerdt Asia 1996	15			1	16	oth = personal
Columbia	Schwerdt Amer 1992	8	2		1	11	oth = punch ? offic?
Corfu	Schwerdt Europe 1994				1	1	oth = Fraudulent?